

Reliable Directions

With the advent of GPS and online mapping services come accounts of travelers who have been led down dead end roads, into the heart of big, traffic –snarled cities, and to points that lie far from their intended destination. In some cases, people have lost their lives stranded on snow–drifted wilderness roads with no cell phone signal available. A recent news item described how a group of cyclists in Portland, OR tested out a new GPS program for bikers. The goal of the program was to take bike riders on special routes that avoid a lot of traffic and other vehicles. Due to a few obvious glitches in the program, several riders were treated to harrowing, lengthy routes that eventually got them to their destination, but left them exhausted and aggravated.



Global Positioning technology has its merits. But so far, it cannot be considered an exacting, reliable service. Everyone who uses it can attest to bouts of ambiguity in the journey. To use it effectively, you have to know two things: where you are starting from, and where you want to be at the end of the journey. What happens in between these two points makes all the difference. Sometimes the fastest route isn't always the most comfortable route. Likewise, the scenic route can add miles to your trip and leave you without comfort stops for long periods of time.

Advice to GPS and mapping services users: don't rely totally on the technology; use a little common sense when plotting your route, and always have an alternate plan. AA A and other travel services offer easy, practical tips on how to be prepared for long trips. For example, cell phones won't work everywhere, so another means of attracting attention and putting out an SOS should be part of your backup plan. Be prepared with extra food, clothing, and money.

Our journey through life is like taking a trip on a much larger scale. We need to be aware of where we are and where we are headed. We have to be prepared for the journey. If you know Jesus Christ personally and have accepted His plan of salvation for you – you're already in a good place. Your destination is Heaven and eternity with the Living God. What happens between now and then requires constant diligence about

your surroundings, the people you interact with, and resources for the journey. If you have never experienced the cleansing, complete redemption of the shedding of Christ's blood for your sin, you have an opportunity now to get on the right road that will change your life and your destination. Otherwise, you are headed toward an eternity of destruction and suffering in a place the Bible calls Hell.

God has provided us with the ultimate, true set of directions for our lives: The Bible. Daniel called God's Word "the Book of Truth" (Daniel 10:21). In Hebrews 4:12 we read, "For the Word of God is living and active....". The Bible holds the answers to every situation mankind has ever – or will ever – encounter. It speaks to family dynamics, relationships, love, politics, personal issues, global and national events, finance, nature..... and the future! The Bible is God's way of communicating with us. It is where His voice is heard. The Scriptures were written through divine inspiration, and have been tried and tested from the beginning. Its principles and direction from God are what provide us with the best route for our journey.

If you are on the road to Heaven, make it a part of your travel plan to stop along the way and find someone who is lost – someone who doesn't know where he is in life, or where he is going.

If you are not on the road to Heaven, ask Jesus to forgive you of your past sins and invite Him into your life as Lord of your heart, your home, and your future. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

Some drivers like to ignore the directions from their GPS and pick an exit or route that GPS doesn't recommend. If you know the area, that can work for you. If you are in unfamiliar territory, you probably will do better to not look for shortcuts, but stick to the map.

God's Word won't put you on the wrong exit or take you down the wrong road. It is infallible. But you have to know what it says. You can't ignore God's directions for life.

We challenge you today to get into God's Word and find new direction for your journey. If we at Canaan Bible Chapel can answer any questions, please contact us through the website or call the church office.